

RECOVERY FUNDS AT WORK IN OHIO'S SIXTH DISTRICT

Wilson Announces Agriculture and Labor Funds from the Recovery Act *Funds for Forest Work and Unemployment Insurance*

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) is pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Labor have both posted that they will release funding to Ohio as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

USDA

According to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ohio will receive \$2 million in recovery funds for USDA Forest Service Projects.

In Southern Ohio, a project to improve Ohio fish passage will receive \$250,000. The project will replace existing culverts and other stream or water crossings associated with roads that are significant barriers to fish and other aquatic life in priority watersheds in southern Ohio, including the Little Muskingum River, Paddle Creek, Monday Creek, and Symmes Creek basins. Endangered mussels and other protected species live in these watersheds.

“This will benefit Washington and Monroe Counties,” Wilson said.

In addition, Lawrence and Washington Counties are part of the Forest Services' Eastern Region that will benefit from two multi-state projects. The first project will distribute \$3.5 million among 13 states to take care of deferred maintenance and to boost safety. This project will employ people to do much-needed forest road and trail signing work. The second project will distribute \$5.88 million among 12 states to provide safer roads and cleaner water. The road maintenance will include removing encroaching brush, adding gravel, repaving, replacing old culverts, and grading roadways. This project will also help improve water quality through the reduction of sediment.

“This is great news for the residents of Ohio,” Wilson said. “These projects will create jobs and address much-needed maintenance issues that have been ignored and put off for too long.”

LABOR

According to U.S. Department of Labor, Ohio will receive \$88.2 million for unemployment insurance (UI) modernization funds.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services can use the funds to pay unemployment benefits or, if appropriated by the legislature, for administering its unemployment insurance program or delivering employment services.

“Ohio recognized the importance of having its UI program better meet the needs of the 21st century workforce long before the Recovery Act,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis. “Ohio uses recent wages when determining eligibility for benefits, which enables unemployed workers who are relatively new entrants to the workforce to receive the assistance they need and deserve.”

“Losing a job can devastate a family,” Wilson said. “We’ve got too many families in Ohio in that situation. This money will help more families make ends meet while they look for work.”